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Sustainable development

Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report, prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/193, provides an update on actions taken by Governments, organizations of the United Nations system and major groups in advancing implementation of sustainable development goals and targets, including through partnerships for sustainable development.

The report contains an overview of salient trends in implementation, a summary of the outcome of the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its fourteenth session and the 2006 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council, as well as a snapshot of regional activities. It also provides highlights of ongoing inter-agency activities in the thematic areas of energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change. The report also provides an update on progress made in advancing partnerships for sustainable development.

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I. Background

1. In its resolution 60/193 of 22 December 2005, the General Assembly reaffirmed the commitment to implement Agenda 21[1], the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21[2] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation)[3], including the time-bound goals and targets, and the other internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, and reaffirmed in the 2005 World Summit Outcome. The Assembly called upon Governments and organizations at all levels, as well as major groups, to take action to ensure the implementation of commitments, programmes and targets adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and encouraged them to report on concrete progress in that regard.

2. In the same resolution, the General Assembly, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General to report on action taken by the United Nations system in the thematic areas being addressed by the Commission on Sustainable Development with a view to facilitating an in-depth consideration of inter-agency coordination and cooperation in the relevant thematic areas.

3. The present report has been prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/193 to provide an update on progress in its implementation. It should be read in conjunction with other reports submitted under the agenda item on sustainable development, including those related to the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, UN-Habitat, the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, as well as the report on matters relating to small island developing States.

II. Overview

4. A salient trend emerging since the World Summit on Sustainable Development has been a deepening of commitment to sustainable development, as characterized by further action in implementation and the increasingly diverse group of actors. The 2005 World Summit provided renewed impetus to implementation. Today, sustainable development can be truly described as a global undertaking, embraced and implemented by stakeholders across the world. A random search on Google for "sustainable development" routinely yields over 200 million results.

5. Many Governments have taken the lead in moving this process of implementation forward. They have charted the future course of their countries using the compass of sustainable development. China, for instance, has applied the

[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

[2] Resolution S-19/2, annex.

[3] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

principles of sustainable development in formulating its eleventh five-year plan (2006-2010), emphasizing the importance of social equity, harmonious development and the protection of environmental and natural resources.

6. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland has been implementing for more than a year its new strategy for sustainable development entitled "Securing the Future", along with a strategic framework. The European Union has also developed a sustainable development strategy for its member countries and is working on the revision of the strategy. The Nordic countries recently also revised a Nordic Strategy for Sustainable Development. At the country level, Norway, for instance, is expected to unveil its revised strategy for sustainable development in its national budget for 2007.

7. The Belgian Federal Plan for Sustainable Development, spanning the period 2004-2008, calls upon the Government to lead by example and reduce the environmental impact of its own operations. In that context, the Belgian Federal Investment Company established a public limited company, FEDESCO (Federal Energy Service Company), to provide third-party financing for energy efficiency improvements in buildings, focusing initially on Government buildings.

8. With support from the Government of Italy and United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Pacific small island developing States have initiated a collaborative process to formulate their national sustainable development strategies. The process is divided into two phases. Phase One focuses on the preparation of national assessment reports and the convening of an international workshop, to share experiences and agree on a common approach to the development and implementation of national sustainable development strategies in Pacific small island developing States. Phase Two will focus on selected Pacific small island developing States to further the development and implementation of national sustainable development strategies.

9. The push for a strategic approach to sustainable development has long been embraced at the local level, as seen in the growing number of local Agenda 21. In Jamaica, local authorities have been actively pursuing the implementation of local sustainable development plans. A recent Ministry of Local Government and Environment Performance report shows that several local authorities have completed sustainable development plans to guide local government activities such as creating revenues from commercial services, installing sanitation facilities and improving compliance with building regulations.

10. In Nigeria, the Rivers State Sustainable Development Programme is to receive legal backing so that the law would ensure future state governments to commit funds to basic amenities programmes. The Sustainable Development Programme, when adopted through legislation, will also facilitate the state government's efforts to establish partnerships with the private sector in the provision of basic services.

11. At the municipal level, an increasing number of city governments have taken initiatives to pursue sustainable development objectives. Through a worldwide network of 675 local governments, many cities have established emissions reduction targets and are implementing climate protection policies. In October 2005, a World Cities Leadership Climate Change Summit was convened in London to stimulate new commitments from city governments to reduce their own carbon dioxide emissions, to develop procurement alliances to commercialize climate-friendly

technologies, and to foster an informal coalition among the largest world cities in partnership with national Governments.

12. In expediting progress in implementation, an increasing number of Governments, including state and local governments, are using market-based mechanisms or economic instruments to address deficiencies and distortions in business- and consumer-related incentives. For example, Bulgaria in recent years has introduced price reforms in its energy sector. The reform is characterized by the following features: (i) step-by-step reform of electricity and heat energy prices by introducing indicative schedule for tariff increases; (ii) removing centralized subsidies for electricity and heating for households; (iii) securing adequate energy protection for low-income segments of the population; and (iv) introducing differentiated prices for the different consumer groups of natural gas. The price reform is expected to bring about a more rationalized and efficient energy sector in Bulgaria.

13. Another encouraging trend is the remarkable expansion of initiatives by the business sector in sustainable development. Increasingly, business realizes that social and environmental issues are strategic issues that will affect long-term profitability. Today, typically 80 per cent or more of market value is based on expectations of cash flow beyond the next three years, according to *The McKinsey Quarterly*. The argument of "the business of business is business" is giving way to the concept of "doing well by doing good", with companies emphasizing more and more the need for tackling long-term social and environmental issues that could impact on shareholder value.

14. Recent evidence shows that the share prices of companies listed in the Dow Jones Sustainability Index, and the FTSE4Good Indexes, have outperformed various other indexes. According to a new study by Andrew Savitz and Karl Weber, entitled *The Triple Bottom Line: How Today's Best-Run Companies Are Achieving Economic, Social and Environmental Success — and How You Can Too*, company bottom lines in future will include the three pillars of sustainable development (economic, environmental and social) in a totally seamless manner.

15. Another achievement in implementation is the dramatic increase in courses on sustainable development offered by institutions of higher learning. A growing number of undergraduate, graduate and doctorate-level courses on sciences and engineering for sustainable development, on sector-specific studies and management for sustainable development, as well as interdisciplinary studies, are creating much-needed opportunities for training tomorrow's leaders in sustainable development, through rigorous education and interdisciplinary studies programmes.

16. In some regions, education for sustainable development is being promoted as mandatory study. In Wales, for instance, a recent initiative calls for education for sustainable development and global citizenship to be an embedded part of the curriculum and proposes greater funding for this area. Some 16 of the 25 Further Education Colleges in Wales have begun to pilot the new Welsh Baccalaureate, which includes knowledge of sustainable development as a core requirement.

17. Recently, an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) youth forum was convened in Viet Nam to provide an opportunity for young people in the Asia and Pacific region to exchange views on matters of common concern regarding sustainable development. The forum emphasized that environmental degradation,

rising disparity between the rich and the poor, and deadly pandemics are posing serious sustainability challenges to the international community. A network of APEC youth was set up to facilitate mutual understanding and cooperation in the region to help advance sustainable development.

III. Progress at the intergovernmental level

18. At the intergovernmental level, deliberations continue to focus on how to effectively expedite implementation of sustainable development goals and objectives, by identifying barriers and constraints, and by exchanging lessons learned and best practice. As the high-level intergovernmental body within the United Nations on sustainable development, the Commission on Sustainable Development focused its work this year on the thematic cluster of energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change. During its 2006 substantive session, the Economic and Social Council at its high-level segment focused on full and productive employment and decent work for all as a foundation for sustainable development.

A. Outcome of the fourteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development

19. As a review session, the fourteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development focused on identifying barriers and constraints, as well as lessons learned and best practice in implementation in the thematic cluster of energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere, and climate change. Its outcome was a Chairman's summary, consisting of part one on thematic review and part two on the High-level Segment[4]. During the session, participants carried out broad-based and balanced review of the four thematic issues, while integrating climate change into discussions on energy, industrial development, air pollution and atmosphere, reflecting the Commission's unique strength. They stressed the need for mainstreaming adaptation to climate change into national sustainable development strategies.

20. There was broad agreement that improving energy access for the poor is critical to achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Gender was highlighted, as access to modern energy services for cooking and heating will reduce indoor air pollution and bring health and economic benefit to women and children. The transport sector was also cited as particularly important for reducing air pollution.

21. Energy efficiency was highlighted as a critical factor for lowering energy consumption, reducing emissions of greenhouse gases and increasing industrial competitiveness. Gas flaring remains a problem in some regions, but some oil and gas producers are taking initiatives addressing the problem.

22. While some countries highlighted renewable energy, including biofuels, wind, solar and geothermal, others pointed out that renewable energy technologies are concentrated in developed countries and a few developing countries and that in the

[4] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2006, Supplement No. 9* (E/2006/29-E/CN.17/2006/15, para. 143).

foreseeable future most countries would continue relying mainly on fossil fuel. Also emphasized was the need for hybrid options in energy mix, using fossil fuel in combination with alternative and renewable energy to meet growing energy needs and energy security considerations.

23. Developing countries stressed the need for transfer of advanced clean energy technologies, including fossil fuel technologies, such as clean coal technologies. They called on developed countries to partner with them in research and development to facilitate transfer of technologies and lower the costs of technologies. They also highlighted the need for an enabling environment at the international and national levels for industrial development, including through improving market access.

24. On financing and investment, many stressed that leveraging public funds with private sector financing would be a good option but an enabling environment would be needed. Increased official development assistance would be required to help meet shortfalls in resources in developing countries. In that regard, the importance of a substantial fourth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility was underlined.

B. Economic and Social Council

25. During its 2006 substantive session held in Geneva from 3 to 5 July, the Economic and Social Council devoted its high-level segment to the issue of full and productive employment and decent work for all, and its impact on sustainable development. At the end of the three-day high-level segment, the Council adopted a Ministerial Declaration[5] on the attainment of full and productive employment and decent work, which highlighted the urgent need for creating an environment at the national and international levels conducive to the attainment of full and productive employment and decent work for all as a foundation for sustainable development. In adopting the Declaration, Ministers recognized that full and productive employment and decent work for all, which encompassed social protection, fundamental principles and rights at work and social dialogue, were key elements of sustainable development for all countries, and therefore a priority objective of social cooperation.

26. Among other actions, Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to develop and implement strategies that give youth everywhere a real and equal opportunity to find full and productive employment and decent work. They reaffirmed the importance of promoting and attaining the goals of universal and equitable access to quality education, the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health and the access of all to primary health care as part of the effort to eradicate poverty, promote full and productive employment, and foster social integration. Ministers further emphasized that good governance at the international level was fundamental for achieving sustainable development, and encouraged Governments and other relevant institutions to consider the impact of their policies on employment and decent work for all, including ensuring coherence of policies. They encouraged Governments to continue to pursue the creation of a conducive environment for enterprise development in both rural and urban areas.

[5] E/2006/L.8.

IV. Inter-agency cooperation and coordination

27. The United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), through its High Level Committee on Programmes, continues to provide overall guidance to the work of UN-Energy and other inter-agency cooperation initiatives in sustainable development. UN-Energy is an inter-agency mechanism created in 2004 under the auspices of the CEB High Level Committee on Programmes to help ensure coherence in the United Nations system's multidisciplinary response to decisions taken at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in the area of energy. It is intended to serve as a gateway for sharing information, knowledge, experiences and good practices as well as initiatives in all aspects for implementing the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. It seeks to maintain an overview of ongoing and planned work within the system and build and strengthen synergies among initiatives of the United Nations at the national, subregional, regional and global levels. It aims at promoting joint programming, harmonization and cooperation in the energy-related activities of the organizations of the United Nations system, including technical programmes. It has tried to build on and draw lessons from past experiences in inter-agency collaboration on energy.

28. In an effort to contribute to the discussions surrounding the Millennium Development Goals in 2005, UN-Energy produced an analytical report, entitled *The Energy Challenge for Achieving the Millennium Development Goals*, that highlighted the importance of energy for achieving all of the Millennium Development Goals and provided practical guidance on how to take action to ensure energy access for poor people. A second publication, *Energy in the United Nations: An Overview of UN-Energy Activities*, was produced in 2006 to raise awareness and provide information on United Nations activities for the fourteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development. Work on developing tools to assess impacts of renewable energy use was also undertaken and an application in Ghana was presented to the Commission at its fourteenth session in a publication entitled *Assessing Policy Options for Increasing the Use of Renewable Energy for Sustainable Development: Modelling Energy Scenarios for Ghana*. UN-Energy also contributed to that session of the Commission by holding side events, participating in regular session panels and holding informal briefings on its activities.

29. UN-Energy has been represented in and has contributed to international forums, including the Conference on Energy for Development, held in the Netherlands in December 2004, the Global Forum on Sustainable Energy held in Vienna in May 2005 and the Commission on Sustainable Development Regional Implementation Meeting for Africa, held in Addis Ababa in October 2005. Participation in these events has made it possible to effectively interact with non-United Nations entities interested in furthering Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation goals related to energy. UN-Energy functions as a knowledge-sharing entity are also undertaken through its website, http://esa.un.org/un-energy.

30. A number of other multiagency activities are currently under way by UN-Energy including work on access to energy, bioenergy and developing tools for use at the national level. These activities, which are detailed in the UN-Energy work programme (see http://esa.un.org/un-energy/workplan.htm), are expected to provide insights for the fifteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development

and aid in implementing energy-related goals outlined in Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and at the ninth session of the Commission.

V. Regional activities

31. The United Nations regional commissions and offices, regional development banks and other regional organizations continue their efforts to expedite regional implementation of sustainable development goals and targets. All five regional commissions have developed priority programme activities in sustainable development and work in collaboration with funds, programmes and other relevant organizations of the United Nations through the Executive Committee of Economic and Social Affairs. In addition, the regional commissions have made important contributions to the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

32. In collaboration with the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and relevant regional and subregional organizations, the five regional commissions organized regional implementation meetings as inputs to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its fourteenth session. The Regional Implementation Meeting for Africa, held in Addis Ababa from 26 to 28 October 2005, undertook an overall review of progress in implementation, including the identification of opportunities, challenges and constraints that African countries face in the areas of the thematic cluster. While pointing to some progress in implementation, the review highlighted the significant barriers and constraints facing African countries in their efforts to meet the Johannesburg goals and targets in the thematic areas.

33. The meeting affirmed that the achievement of sustainable development goals was contingent upon an enabling international environment premised on the legitimate development priorities of developing countries that addressed the fundamental challenges of financing for development, globalization, and market access in the sectors of export of interest to them.

34. Concern was expressed at the limited modern energy production and consumption in Africa and the extreme vulnerability of African countries to climate change, which critically impairs socio-economic development in Africa. Also highlighted was the inadequate contribution of the industrial sector, in particular mining, minerals and metals, to Africa's environmental sustainability. The meeting further underscored the importance of the political leadership of the African Union and reaffirmed the New Partnership for Africa's Development as the sustainable development framework for Africa.

35. The Regional Implementation Meeting for Western Asia was held in Cairo from 13 to 15 November 2005. The wide disparity in development and energy resources between oil producing and non-oil producing States was noted. Even though oil and natural gas were the largest economic sector in the region, over 20 per cent of the population of the Arab countries still lacked access to modern energy services. Some countries in the region faced problems in providing energy for their own countries as well as ensuring that the international market was supplied with reliable energy. That would be a growing challenge as world energy demand continues to increase.

36. The meeting emphasized that a focus on cleaner fossil fuels, not just on renewable energy, was necessary to reduce the environmental impacts, while meeting global demand for affordable energy. Advanced technologies, such as carbon capture and storage, would be a key to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and would require technology development and transfer. The role of the international community in promoting technology transfer and technical assistance was emphasized, as well as the need for cooperation in research and feasibility studies on energy for sustainable development.

37. The Regional Implementation Meeting for Europe, held in Geneva from 15 to 16 December 2005, discussed obstacles and challenges to implementation, but also ways to overcome them. The assessment of the meeting indicated that the region was not yet on track to deliver its World Summit on Sustainable Development commitments. The key challenges were to increase access to energy services to meet basic human needs and achieve sustainable industrial development, while reducing energy related environmental and health problems, in particular those related to air pollution and climate change. Regional and national differences significantly altered implementation experiences and priorities.

38. The meeting further emphasized that the thematic cluster of issues should be considered in the context of the overarching objectives of sustainable development: eradicating poverty, changing unsustainable patterns of production and consumption and protecting the natural resource base for economic and social development. Energy for sustainable development was the issue binding that thematic cluster together. Both within the region and globally, intensified efforts were required to steer onto a truly sustainable energy path.

39. The Regional Implementation Meeting for Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok from 19 to 20 January 2006, emphasized that attaining sustainable development in the region was key to global sustainability. The social factors of economic development and environmental degradation currently were not adequately integrated with other dimensions of sustainable development in the region. Sustainable production and consumption patterns, which emphasized a long-term perspective while recognizing the linkages to social development and equity, did not receive enough attention from political, business or community leaders.

40. The region was experiencing the fastest economic growth in the world. The current pattern of economic growth presented challenges to sustainable development. The region would not be able to continue its economic growth without improving the ecological efficiency and social equity of its development patterns. Opportunities for enhanced transition to sustainable development emerge as valuable lessons were being learned, which indicated that economic growth and environmental protection objectives were compatible in Asia and the Pacific.

41. The Regional Implementation Meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Santiago from 19 to 20 January 2006, emphasized cleaner energy technologies and renewable energy for addressing the serious problem of urban air pollution, as well as problems of climate change. It was noted that, despite some success stories, there had been no overall improvement in energy efficiency in the region. There was clearly a need to change the energy mix of countries through incentives for cleaner technologies and through such measures as internalization of the health costs of pollution.

42. The meeting further highlighted the importance of regional and national initiatives to assess and promote energy efficiency, renewable energy, sustainable transport and urban air quality, as well as the importance of involving all stakeholders. Targets for renewable energy were considered important measures to be established with appropriate support. There were also calls for interconnecting national electricity grids to improve efficiency and promote greater use of renewable sources of energy.

VI. Major groups

43. Major groups continue to contribute to sustainable development by utilizing their expertise and knowledge to promote education in sustainable development, raising awareness of social, economic and environmental issues and monitoring progress towards the implementation of sustainable development. They also contribute to implementation by taking a growing number of initiatives and actions. The deepening of commitments to sustainable development by business and industry, for instance, is a salient feature of recent trends and it helps to reinforce the momentum for implementation.

44. Youth is playing an increasingly active role in advocating and implementing sustainable development objectives. For instance, the European Youth for Action organizes an annual bike tour to raise public awareness of the harmful effects of cars on local air pollution. Every year for the past 15 years the tour runs for two months, covering around 6,000-10,000 km, and addressing thousands of individuals about air pollution and climate change.

45. The biennial International Youth Summit on Sustainable Urban Transportation focuses on specific action and best practices in fostering urban sustainability, in particular international best practices in urban and transportation planning. It also seeks to provide an opportunity for building a network of experts who are national or international leaders in urban and transportation planning, transit industry, and urban sustainability.

46. Major groups' multiple roles as sustainable development advocates, implementers and stakeholders continue to be crucial. Recent experience also shows that active participation by major groups in the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development helps to enrich interactive discussions. More than 700 representatives from 134 non-governmental organizations and other major groups participated in the fourteenth session of the Commission, contributing to the review by identifying barriers and constraints and by reporting on and sharing their results-oriented activities in the form of case studies, lessons learned, and best practices.

47. The continued efforts to enhance major groups' participation in the work of the Commission have made it possible for experts from major groups to serve as panellists in thematic discussions and to participate in all thematic, regional and small island developing States-related discussions. Each thematic discussion included interventions from at least two major groups, leading to a total of 86 oral inputs by the major groups.

48. In addition, a multi-stakeholder dialogue session provided major groups with an opportunity to introduce their discussion papers. The session was organized in an issue-driven fashion that included interventions both from major groups and from

Governments. A ministerial dialogue was also organized to help to focus on the role of the business sector in energy, industrial development and climate change. Ministers and business leaders presented their views on the critical factors for fostering public-private partnerships and for enhancing the contributions of the business sector to improving access to modern energy services, promoting industrial development and combating climate change. During the High-level segment, all nine major groups joined Ministers in a high-level interactive discussion on the topic "Making a Difference".

49. Major groups also actively participated in the partnerships fair, learning centre, and side events of the fourteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development. To complement the session's official programme of activities, a "Day of business and industry" was held to focus on the role and contributions of the private sector and other stakeholders in addressing the thematic cluster. The event brought together business, Governments, and other major groups sectors in an informal, dynamic dialogue.

VII. Partnerships for sustainable development

50. Voluntary, multi-stakeholder partnerships working towards sustainable development goals have proved to be an important complementary outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. As of August 2006, a total of 321 such initiatives had been registered with the secretariat of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

51. Partnerships for sustainable development have a special character: they are specifically linked to implementation of globally agreed commitments in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, Agenda 21 and/or the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21. As stressed at the Summit, however, these partnerships are not a substitute for government responsibilities and commitments; they are intended to strengthen implementation by involving all those stakeholders who can make a contribution to sustainable development.

52. The Commission on Sustainable Development was designated by the World Summit as the focal point for discussion on partnerships that promote sustainable development. At its eleventh session in 2003, the Commission stressed that partnerships in the context of the Summit process and its follow-up should be developed and implemented in accordance with a set of agreed criteria and guidelines. The Commission agreed that information on partnerships for sustainable development should be made publicly available. As part of this information-sharing process, the Commission requested the secretariat to make information on partnerships available through a database accessible to all interested parties.

53. In April 2006 the Commission on Sustainable Development Partnerships website and database were redesigned to improve navigation, increase user-friendliness and enable easier access to the new partnerships-related information resources being made available. New features added to the website included a partnerships events database to assist in identifying partnership activities; searchable listings of web links, publications and articles related to partnerships. The Partnerships website continues to make available a wide array of practical information: from details on how to register partnerships with the Commission's secretariat, to information on upcoming partnerships-related meetings, including the

partnerships fairs, to recent publications on registered partnerships, produced by the Commission's secretariat that are available for download.

54. In May 2006, the Commission secretariat organized a partnerships fair to provide an opportunity for registered initiatives to showcase progress, network with other partnerships, identify new partners and learn from each other's experiences. The programme of activities included "Partnerships in practice" interactive discussions sessions, partnerships presentations and partnerships information desks. The fourteenth session of the Commission also marked the launch of the first edition of the Partnerships CD-ROM. This informational tool containing a compact disc version of Partnerships database, along with copies of relevant reports and United Nations documents related to partnerships, was widely distributed to participants at the session.

55. Over the years since the World Summit on Sustainable Development, partnerships for sustainable development launched at the Summit have continued to develop and grow. By collaborating across all levels, pooling skills, and resources, developing innovative policy, technical and financing solutions to overcome barriers to sustainable development, these partnerships continue to demonstrate their impact and concrete contributions to the implementation of internationally agreed sustainable development goals and commitments. New partnerships continue to be launched and be registered with the Commission secretariat. A majority of registered partnerships are operational, and have reported on the progress made in pilot projects and activities. At the same time, these initiatives are evolving, by taking on new partners and building alliances with other partnerships working in complementary areas. Partnerships have been recognized as one of the most innovative outcomes of the World Summit and as having an important role to play in delivering World Summit commitments.

VIII. Conclusions and recommendations

56. **The report shows that there is a broad range of implementation activities going on at all levels, including at the local level. Significant progress is being made in education for sustainable development and the commitment of business to sustainable development. Member States, organizations of the United Nations system and major groups' actors, including industry and business, should stay on this implementation track while aiming for accelerated progress.**

57. **To that end, it is recommended that the General Assembly:**

(a) **Call on Governments, organizations of the United Nations system and major groups to deepen their commitments to sustainable development by redoubling their efforts to implement Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;**

(b) **Call on Governments to continue their support to the Commission on Sustainable Development by organizing intersessional activities, making available to the Secretariat for broader dissemination, success stories, best practice and case studies and by contributing to the Commission's trust fund in support of its work;**

(c) **Invite the CEB to continue monitoring, through the High Level Committee on Programmes, the operational efficiency and effectiveness of inter-agency collaborative mechanisms, including UN-Energy, in the follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development;**

(d) **Call upon donor Governments and international financial institutions to target funding support to developing countries in support of their efforts to overcome barriers and constraints identified during the review year in the thematic cluster of issues of energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change.**

Annex

Highlights of activities by UN-Energy member entities

(Based on the publication *Energy in the United Nations: An Overview of UN-Energy Activities*, available at http://esa.un.org/un-energy/)

Name of organization	*Highlights of activities*
Economic Commission for Africa	• Coordinating United Nations actions for energy in Africa
	• Improving Africa's energy sector management and policies through technical assistance in the formulation of energy policy, strengthening human resources and capacity-building, and improving power sector reforms of the provision of sustainable energy
	• Promoting regional integration in energy
	• Developing renewable energy
	• Improving energy accessibility
Economic Commission for Europe	• Promoting a dialogue within the Energy Security Forum among senior executives from oil and natural gas companies, energy producers and leading financial institutions
	• Assisting South-Eastern European, Eastern European, and Commonwealth of Independent States countries to enhance their energy efficiency, diminish fuel poverty and meet international environmental treaty obligations within the framework of the Energy Efficiency 21 Project
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	• Providing advisory services and training opportunities
	• Implementing cooperation projects on energy technologies, energy efficiency, and use of ethanol, etc., as well as industrial development
	• Organizing expert group meetings on oil industry in Central America
	• Preparing energy research papers and energy statistical reports
	• Creating a regional database for pollutant dispersion modelling at the regional level

Name of organization	*Highlights of activities*
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	• Developing Guidelines on Strategic Planning and Management of the Energy Sector; Guidelines on the Integration of Energy and Rural Development Policies and Programmes
	• Implementing pro-poor public-private partnerships including in electricity supply
	• Facilitating enhanced energy cooperation in North-Eastern Asia
Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia	• Establishing the Regional Mechanism on the Development of Energy Uses for Sustainable Development
	• Disseminating renewable energy for poverty alleviation in Commission member countries
	• Conducting studies on energy efficiency and cleaner fossil fuels uses in selected sectors in Commission member countries and on regional progress achieved on energy for sustainable development
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	• Generating and disseminating information on bioenergy production, trade and utilization
	• Providing technical assistance to member countries in bioenergy
	• Conducting assessment of carbon finance for bioenergy development
	• Cooperating with national, regional and international partners
International Atomic Energy Agency	• Developing and transferring energy planning models tailored particularly to developing country needs, covering all dimensions of energy system analysis and planning
	• Publishing a full range of technical documents that distil much of the world's accumulated expertise on all dimensions of nuclear power
United Nations Human Settlements Programme, UN-Habitat	• Piloting demonstration projects in sustainable energy production and use for urban households; capturing energy from urban waste; and mitigating measures for greenhouse gases emissions reductions in the transport sector
	• Implementing the Urban Energy Programme and the Urban Transport Programme
United Nations Development Programme	• Strengthening national policy frameworks by incorporating sustainable energy issues into policy dialogues on macroeconomic reform, energy sector reform and sustainable development planning
	• Promoting rural energy services to support growth and equity
	• Promoting clean energy technologies
	• Increasing access to investment financing for sustainable energy

Name of organization	*Highlights of activities*
	• Supporting country-level energy initiatives through global advocacy and analysis on energy for sustainable development
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	• Providing technical assistance directly to countries and/or through agreements with regional entities in areas such as energy policy, energy planning and the formulation and implementation of national priority projects
	• Strengthening national capacities and training programmes, including under the Global Renewable Energy Education and Training Programme
United Nations Environment Programme	• Under the Rural Energy Enterprise Development Programme, providing early stage seed financing and technical support to clean energy enterprises
	• Under the Bank Partnership Lending Programme, providing credit enhancement to help local banks devise dedicated loan programmes for end-user financing
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	• Reviewing and synthesizing reports submitted by Parties to the Convention on national climate change policies
	• Supporting the expert group on technology transfer, including in the sectors of energy efficiency and energy supply
United Nations Industrial Development Organization	• Implementing micro-hydro power projects through its Regional Centre for Small Hydro Power
	• Implementing energy efficiency projects for industrial systems in local industry
United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women	• Bringing a gender perspective to the gathering and dissemination of sectoral information within the UN-Energy group
	• In 2006, pending necessary funding, the Institute is looking to propose "women and energy" as a key area of research, as it did in 1989, 1990 and 1998
World Health Organization	• Focusing on three linkages between energy and health: (1) household energy and health; (2) transport and health; (3) climate change and health
	• Providing regular updates on the linkages between household energy, indoor air pollution and health
	• Documenting the evidence of health impacts of transport policies and facilitating country-specific analyses of the impacts of different transport options
	• Providing information on the many linkages between climate variability and health and reviewing the threats posed by human-induced climate change

Name of organization	*Highlights of activities*
	• Organizing capacity-building workshops targeted towards countries in regions particularly vulnerable to climate change and providing guidance on how to assess vulnerability and identify adaptation options
World Bank Group	• Providing support for renewable energy, focusing on developing legal and regulatory frameworks to promote markets for these technologies, mainstreaming renewable energy in national energy strategies and providing project financing
	• Providing support for energy efficiency, focusing on improving demand management and efficiency distribution activities and on developing competitive markets for energy services and technologies
	• Supporting progress in regional energy integration by helping participating countries ensure their energy security and reliability of energy supply in the most efficient and cost-effective manner
	• Supporting rural and peri-urban electrification
	• Implementing the carbon finance initiatives as part of the larger global effort to combat climate change and formulating a long-term investment framework for clean energy and sustainable development
United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs	• Promoting renewable energy, particularly in the areas of capacity-building, policy development and standard setting
	• Assisting developing countries in tapping funds for renewable energy and energy efficiency projects
	• Implementing projects to address energy efficiency through capacity-building, education, energy audits, and the establishment of energy services companies
	• Contributing as a technical partner to the Collaborative Labeling and Appliance Standards Programmes, which works for the adoption of energy efficiency standards and labelling for appliances, lighting and equipment
	• Conducting analytical studies on various aspects of power sector market reforms in developing countries and organizing capacity-building seminars on electricity inter-connections
	• Linking technical advisory activities to policy discussions at the Commission on Sustainable Development to ensure a strong connection between normative and operational activities